

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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HAER
WVA
19-HARF,
30-

POTOMAC POWER PLANT

HAER NO. WV-61

On the West Virginia shore of the Potomac River
about 1 mile upstream from its confluence with
the Shenandoah River.

Harpers Ferry
Jefferson County
West Virginia

Jet Lowe, Photographer, 1995

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| WV-61-1 | VIEW OF POWER PLANT LOOKING SOUTHEAST. SEVEN
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1925 GE GENERATOR IN FOREGROUND, WITH C. 1910
GENERATOR COVER IN BACKGROUND. STEEL FRAME
SUPPORTS HOISTING MECHANISM USED TO MOVE, REPAIR,
OR REPLACE GENERATORS.

WV-61-14 INTERIOR OF POWER PLANT LOOKING SOUTHEAST AT
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WV-61-15 INTERIOR OF POWER PLANT LOOKING SOUTHWEST. BACK
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WV-61-16 INTERIOR OF POWER PLANT BUILDING LOOKING SOUTH AT
1925 GE GENERATOR. GOVERNOR MECHANISM IN
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COMPANY, ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS (NAMEPLATE ON LEFT).

WV-61-17 TOP OF TURBINE LOOKING NORTHWEST. SHAFT TO
GENERATOR IN CENTER.

WV-61-18 TURBINE AND GENERATOR SHAFT IN CONCRETE HOUSING OF
THE TURBINE FLUME.

ADDENDUM TO:
POTOMAC POWER PLANT
On the West Virginia Shore of the
Potomac River about 1 mile upriver
from the confluence with the Shenandoah River
Harpers Ferry
Jefferson County
West Virginia

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Photographer: Jet Lowe, 1999

- WV-61-19 VIEW LOOKING NORTHWEST FROM WITHIN THE ARMORY CANAL
WALLS AT THE DOWNSREAM SIDE OF THE CONTROL GATES AND
LOCK FOR THE CANAL.

- WV-61-20 VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST FROM THE SHORE OF THE POTOMAC
RIVER AT THE UPSTREAM SIDE OF THE CONTROL GATES AND LOCK
FOR THE ARMORY CANAL.

- WV-61-21 DETAIL VIEW OF THE OLD ARMORY WALL LOCATED ALONG THE
SHORE OF THE POTOMAC SLIGHTLY SOUTHEAST FROM THE
SPILLWAYS OF THE POWER PLANT.

- WV-61-22 CLOSE-UP VIEW OF A CANAL SPILLWAY LOCATED NORTHWEST OF
THE POWER PLANT. THE BRICK ARCH IN THE FOREGROUND IS A
POSSIBLE REMNANT OF THE RAILROAD THAT USED TO BE
LOCATED ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF THE FOUNDATIONS THAT
THE POWER PLANT SITS UPON.

- WV-61-23 DETAIL VIEW OF THE C. 1905 DAYTON GLOBE TURBINE THAT IS
STILL EXTANT IN THE SECOND FLUME (COUNTING FROM THE
DOWNSTREAM FLUME TOWARDS THE UPSTREAM FLUMES)
BENEATH THE GENERATOR FLOOR. THE DYNAMO THIS TURBINE
WAS ATTACHED TO IS NO LONGER EXTANT.

- WV-61-24 CLOSE-UP VIEW OF A GRINDSTONE THAT IS LOCATED NEAR THE
SPILLWAYS OF THE POWER PLANT. THIS GRINDSTONE REMAINS
FROM THE ERA WHEN THE STRUCTURE ON THIS SITE FUNCTIONED
AS A PULP MILL.

- WV-61-25 INTERIOR VIEW ON THE GENERATOR FLOOR OF THE SOAPSTONE
PANELS THAT CONTAIN INSTRUMENTS TO MONITOR AND
CONTROL THE OUTPUT OF THE GENERATORS. IN THE
FOREGROUND RIGHT ARE ADJUSTABLE FIELD RESISTORS TO
CONTROL THE OVERALL POWER OUTPUT OF THE MAIN GENERATOR
VIA THE EXCITER GENERATOR.

- WV-61-26 DETAIL VIEW OF THE ADJUSTABLE FIELD RESISTOR MANUAL
CONTROLS AND SWITCH BOXES.

- WV-61-27 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING INTO THE FIRST TAILRACE (COUNTING FROM THE DOWNSTREAM END TO THE UPSTREAM END – SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST).
- WV-61-28 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING INTO THE SECOND TAILRACE (COUNTING FROM THE DOWNSTREAM END TO THE UPSTREAM END – SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST). NOTE THE STEEL BULKHEAD OF THE FLUME AND THE DRAFT TUBE EXTENDING BENEATH THE SILT DEPOSITS.
- WV-61-29 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING INTO THE FOURTH TAILRACE (COUNTING FROM THE DOWNSTREAM END TO THE UPSTREAM END – SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST). NOTE THE DRIVE SHAFT, GEAR AND WATER LINE EXTENDING FROM THE STEEL BULKHEAD. THIS EQUIPMENT IS EXTANT FROM THE ERA OF PULP MILL OPERATIONS.
- WV-61-30 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING INTO THE THIRD TAILRACE (COUNTING FROM THE DOWNSTREAM END TO THE UPSTREAM END – SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST). NOTE THE STEEL BULKHEAD OF THE FLUME AND THE DRAFT TUBE EXTENDING BENEATH THE SILT DEPOSITS AND WATER LINE.
- WV-61-31 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING INTO THE SIXTH TAILRACE (COUNTING FROM THE DOWNSTREAM END TO THE UPSTREAM END – SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST). THIS AREA IS THE PORTION OF THE PULP MILL THAT WAS NEVER REBUILT AFTER A DEVASTATING FIRE IN 1925 AND SUBSEQUENT END TO PULP PRODUCTION AT THIS SITE.
- WV-61-32 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING INTO THE SEVENTH TAILRACE (COUNTING FROM THE DOWNSTREAM END TO THE UPSTREAM END – SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST). THIS AREA IS THE PORTION OF THE PULP MILL THAT WAS NEVER REBUILT AFTER A DEVASTATING FIRE IN 1925 AND SUBSEQUENT END TO PULP PRODUCTION AT THIS SITE. NOTE THE DRIVE SHAFT AND OTHER REMNANTS FROM THE PULP MILLING OPERATION.
- WV-61-33 EXTERIOR VIEW LOOKING INTO THE FIFTH TAILRACE (COUNTING FROM THE DOWNSTREAM END TO THE UPSTREAM END – SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST). THIS AREA IS THE PORTION OF THE PULP MILL THAT WAS NEVER REBUILT AFTER A DEVASTATING FIRE IN 1925 AND SUBSEQUENT END TO PULP PRODUCTION AT THIS SITE.